



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Assembly Passes Legislation to Increase Hunting Opportunities for Veterans and Disabled

Rep. Jacque/Sen. Roth Bill heads to Governor for signature

MADISON – Yesterday, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed Senate Bill 20, authored by Representative André Jacque (R-De Pere) and Senator Roger Roth (R-Appleton), by voice vote, sending the bill to Governor Walker for his expected signature. SB 20 will increase hunting, trapping, and sturgeon spearing opportunities for the disabled, Purple Heart medal recipients, and active duty service members by following the same transfer of approvals that are allowed to be transferred to a minor under current law. The bill previously passed the State Senate on a voice vote and the legislation cleared both Assembly and Senate committees unanimously.

“I am proud to help give the disabled, our active duty military and Purple Heart recipients an opportunity to more fully participate in Wisconsin’s sporting heritage and the ability to make memories they can share with friends and family for a lifetime,” said Representative Jacque.

Senator Roth added, “This legislation recognizes the contributions of the disabled and those who are serving in the U.S. Military or were wounded defending our freedom.”

The proposed changes passed the Wisconsin Conservation Congress overwhelmingly during the DNR’s 2012 and 2013 spring hearings and recognize that persons with disabilities often have health issues that are deteriorating rapidly and waiting for the opportunity to secure a tag on their own is not an option. Because it is a transfer rather than an exemption, allowing an able-bodied hunter to transfer his or her tag to a youth, disabled person, veteran or active duty servicemember does not negatively harm quotas set for population goals.

The bi-partisan legislation is supported by a large coalition of groups, including the Wisconsin DNR Disabled Advisory Council, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Board, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, Challenge the Outdoors, and the Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired. No one testified or registered against SB 20.

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